Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date: 04/04/01	Bureau/Station/Facility: Lakewood Sheriff's Station	Admin. Invest.? ☐	Hit? ☒

Incident Information

URN: 001-07786-1334-052	Date: 04/03/01 Time: 0030
City or Station: Bellflower	Nature of Incident: Deputies went to a priority family disturbance 918 call. They were confronted by the suspect who was armed with a knife. They attempted to subdue him with less-lethal weapons but failed. Suspect threw the knife and was shot and killed by deputies.
Location: [redacted] Walnut Street #[redacted]	

Location Type (*circle one or more*):	Lighting (*circle only one*):	Incident Type (*circle one or more*):	Initiated by (*circle only one*):
Backyard Beach Business Freeway Industrial Park Parking Lot **(Residence)** Rural School Street Other: ______	Darkness Daylight Other **(Street Lights)** Weather (*circle only one*): **(Clear)** Cloudy Fog Rain Distance:	Accidental **(Armed Person)** Fleeing Suspect Foot Pursuit Gun Take Away Moving Vehicle Sniper/Ambush Startle Struggle Involved Traffic Stop Unarmed Person Unintentional Vehicle Pursuit Warrant Service Other: Mentally ill person	Arrest Warrant **(Call)** Observation One Person Unit Other Search Warrant Two Person Unit Prior Activity (*circle only one*): Detective Inmate Transport Other **(Routine Patrol)**
Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy: 7	Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect: 0		Aero Unit? ☐ Canine Unit? ☐

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted] PM Day	Regular [redacted]ff Duty
[redacted]	Yelverton	Marshall		**(EM)** PM Day	**(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty
[redacted]	Brennan	Timothy		**(EM)** PM Day	**(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name: [redacted] FH/[redacted]	First Name: [redacted]	M.I.		
Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	Zip Code	Work Ph: [redacted]	Home Ph
Last Name: [redacted] FH/[redacted]	First Name: [redacted]	M.I.		
Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	Zip Code	Work Ph: [redacted]	Home Ph
Last Name: [redacted] MH/[redacted]	First Name: [redacted]	M.I.		
Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	Zip Code	Work Ph: [redacted]	Home Ph

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(*circle one or more*)
[redacted]	Biddle	Richard		**(On Duty)** **(Witness to shooting)** **(Present during shooting)** Involved in shooting
[redacted]	Gonzalez	Steven		**(On Duty)** **(Witness to shooting)** **(Present during shooting)** Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	McDonald	Joseph	

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Harpham	Richard	

PSTD Use Only
SH # 2033090

SH-R-438A rev. 3/97

See Reverse

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 001-07786-1334-052

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
04/03/01	0230	01/31/02	

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I
[redacted]	Glover	Willa	
[redacted]	Borngrebe	William	
[redacted]	Hines	William	

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious

(RM) Refused Med Treatment

(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) 22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-80 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S-1	E-1	OE					NN	
S-1	E-2	OE					NN	
S-1	E-3	OE					NN	
E-1	S-1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	DH	CH
E-2	S-1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	GS	LE
E-3	S-1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	GS	LE

See Front Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 001-07786-1334-052

Involved Employee

E 1

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Sex: [redacted]	Rank [redacted]	Unit Assignment: [redacted]	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): [redacted]
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM [redacted] Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): [redacted] Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case # / Interviewed? [redacted]
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: [redacted]	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest [redacted]	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted]	Height: [redacted]		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted]	Prior Shootings? [redacted] Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.

E 2

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Vranek	First Name: Steven	M.I.
Sex: M Race: White	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Lakewood Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 132
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): (EM) PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): (Regular) Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case # / Interviewed? ☒
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest, (Uniform w/ Vest)	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted]	Height: 5'11" Weight: 200		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted]	Prior Shootings? ☒ Number of Prior Shootings: 1
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.

E 3

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Diplock	First Name: Jason	M.I.
Sex: M Race: White	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Lakewood Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 133T1
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): (EM) PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): (Regular) Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case # / Interviewed? ☒
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest, (Uniform w/ Vest)	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted]	Height: 5'11" Weight: 215		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted]	Prior Shootings? [redacted] Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]		First Name [redacted]	M.I.

Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

URN: 001-07786-1334-052

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Esparza	First Name: Ricardo	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: M Race: Hispanic	Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	State & Zip Code: [redacted]
Work Phone: [redacted]	Home Phone: [redacted]	Social Security #: [redacted]	Driver's License #: [redacted]
Age: 29 D.O.B. 08/13/71	Height: 5'06" Weight: 160	FBI #: [redacted]	CII #: [redacted]
Booking #: Deceased	Primary Charge: 245(c) PC	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☒	Coroner Case #: 2001-02517	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☒	Apprehended? ☒	Mental Illness? ☒	Criminal History? [redacted]
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

See Other Side

SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted] FW/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] MH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] MW/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	90706	none	(562) 925-2843
[redacted] MH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] MH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]		

SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Employee Witnesses

Last Name		First Name	M.I.	Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Harman	#[redacted]	Gary					
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]					
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]					
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]					

Los Ange'es County Sheriff's De-artment

pervisor's Report on Use of For

Incident Information

URN: 001-07786-1334-052	Date: 04/03/01	Time: 0030
Location: [redacted] Walnut Street		
City or Station: Bellflower		
Bureau/Station/Facilty: Lakewood Sheriff's Station	Admin. Investigation? Yes ☐ No ☑	

Employee Witnesses

Emp #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	Vranek	Steven	
[redacted]	Diplock	Jason	

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted] FH/[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	27	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted] MH/[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	27	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted] FW/[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	47	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

On Duty Supervisor

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Rank	Present	Witness to Incident?
[redacted]	Biddle	Richard		Sergeant	Yes ☑ No ☐	Yes ☑ No ☐
[redacted]	Gonzalez	Stevenson Ranch		Sergeant	Yes ☑ No ☐	Yes ☑ No ☐

Watch Sergeant

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	McDonald	Joseph	

Watch Commander

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	Harpham	Richard	

Watch Commander's Signature: ______________________ Emp. #: ________

Copy Provided to Employee By: ______________________ Emp. #: ________

Supervisor Completing Form: ______________________ Emp. #: ________
(Print)

Unit Commanders Signature: ______________________ Emp. #: ________ Date Signed: ________

PSTD Use Only
FO# 205414

Original: Unit Commander
Copy: P.S.T.D. Headquarters
Employee

SH-R-438 Rev. 10/98

URN. 001-07786-1334-052

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton: (Control)
(BI) Baton: (Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds: (Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds: (Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds: (Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device: Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device: Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hands
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(NO) Nose
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Force Applied

(Only One Code Per Block)

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S-1	E-1	OE	NN	
S-1	E-2	OE	NN	
S-1	E-3	OE	NN	
E-1	S-1	AW	BR	AR
E-2	S-1	ST	BR	AR
E-3	S-1	ST	BR	AD

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
Involved Employee Information

URN. 001-07786-1334-052

Involved Employee

E 1

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
[redacted] Male ☐ Female	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
☐ EM ☐ AM [redacted] PM	[redacted] Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force Significant Force [redacted]

E 2

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
[redacted] Male ☐ Female	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
[redacted] EM ☐ AM ☐ PM	[redacted] Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force Significant Force [redacted]

E 3

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
[redacted] Male ☐ Female	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
[redacted] EM ☐ AM ☐ PM	[redacted] Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force Significant Force [redacted]

E

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
☐ EM ☐ AM ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty			

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
☐ EM ☐ AM ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty			

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex	Race	Unit of Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift				Age	Height	Weight
☐ EM ☐ AM ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift	☐ OT Shift	☐ Off Duty			

Medical Exam/Treatment	If Admitted, Name of Hospital	Coroner Case #	
☐			Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

pervisor's Report on Use of For
Suspect Information

URN. 001-07786-1334-052

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Esparza	Ricardo	
AKA Last Name	**AKA First Name**	**AKA Middle Name**

Sex	Race	Street Address	City	State & Zip Code
☑ Male ☐ Female	Hispanic	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Work Phone	Home Phone	Age	Height	Weight	D.O.B.	Armed?
[redacted]	[redacted]	29	5'06"	160	[redacted]	☑

Booking #	Primary Charge	Secondary Charge	Criminal History?
Deceased	245(c) PC		[redacted]

Hospital Admission?	Rec'd Treatment At	Coroners Case #	Mental History?
☑	Long Beach Memorial Hospital	2001-02517	☑

Under Influence?	Substance	Photos of Suspects Injuries?
☐ YES ☑ NO		☐ YES ☑ NO

Suspect Interview

Date	Time	Audiotape	Videotape
		☐	☐

Suspect Information

S

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
AKA Last Name	**AKA First Name**	**AKA Middle Name**

Sex	Race	Street Address	City	State & Zip Code
☐ Male ☐ Female				

Work Phone	Home Phone	Age	Height	Weight	D.O.B.	Armed?
						☐

Booking #	Primary Charge	Secondary Charge	Criminal History?
			☐

Hospital Admission?	Rec'd Treatment At	Coroners Case #	Mental History?
☐			☐

Under Influence?	Substance	Photos of Suspects Injuries?
☐ YES ☐ NO		☐ YES ☐ NO

Suspect Interview

Date	Time	Audiotape	Videotape
		☐	☐

Non-Employee Witnesses (continuation)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] FH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] FH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] MH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] FH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] MW [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] FH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] MH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] MH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted] FH [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

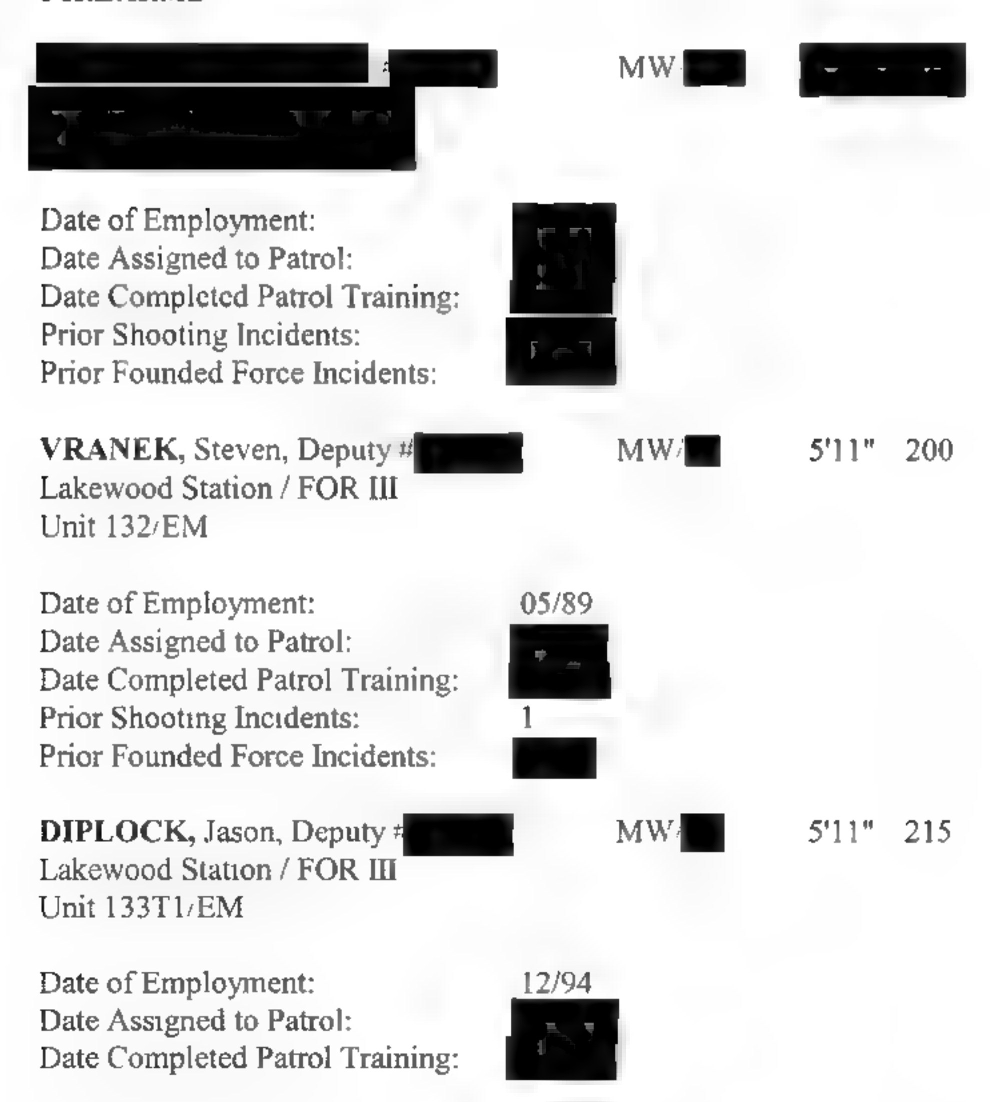
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone

Non-Employee Witnesses (continuation)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Phone	Home Phone
[redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]						
[redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]						
Harman #[redacted]	Gary						
Yelverton #[redacted]	Marshall						
[redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]						
[redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]						

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
HIT SHOOTING-SUSPECT DECEASED
SH 2033090
FO 2054144
001-07786-1334-052

On Tuesday, April 04, 2001, Internal Affairs Sergeants Bill Borngrebe and Bill Hines along with Lieutenant Willa Glover responded to the City of Bellflower regarding a hit shooting, suspect deceased Sergeant Rod Kusch and Detective Karen Shonka responded from Homicide Bureau.



INVOLVED PERSONNEL

FIREARMS

[redacted] #[redacted] MW/[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]

Date of Employment: [redacted]
Date Assigned to Patrol:
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents:

VRANEK, Steven, Deputy #[redacted] MW/[redacted] 5'11" 200
Lakewood Station / FOR III
Unit 132/EM

Date of Employment: 05/89
Date Assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents: 1
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

DIPLOCK, Jason, Deputy #[redacted] MW/[redacted] 5'11" 215
Lakewood Station / FOR III
Unit 133T1/EM

Date of Employment: 12/94
Date Assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training:


Prior Shooting Incidents:
Prior Founded Force Incidents.  [redacted]

LESS LETHAL WEAPONS

[redacted] Deputy #[redacted] MW/[redacted] [redacted]

Date of Employment: [redacted]
Date Assigned to Patrol.
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents:
Prior Founded Force Incidents:

[redacted] Deputy #[redacted] MH/[redacted] [redacted]

Date of Employment: [redacted]
Date Assigned to Patrol:
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents:
Prior Founded Force Incidents:

[redacted] MW/[redacted] [redacted]

Date of Employment: [redacted]
Date Assigned to Patrol:
Date Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents:
Prior Founded Force Incidents:

SUSPECT

ESPARZA, Ricardo (Deceased) MH/29 5'06" 160

Suspect Esparza has a prior arrest and conviction for [redacted]

WITNESSES

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

BIDDLE, Richard, Sergeant #[redacted]

GONZALEZ, Steven, Sergeant #[redacted]

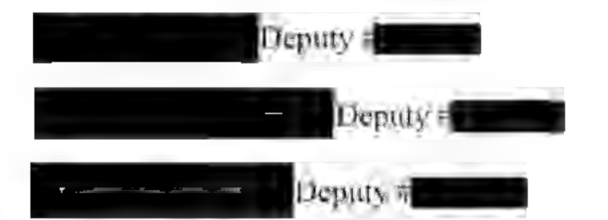


[redacted] Deputy #[redacted]

YELVERTON, Marshall, Deputy #[redacted]

BRENNAN, Timothy, Deputy #[redacted]

HARMAN, Gary, Deputy #[redacted]

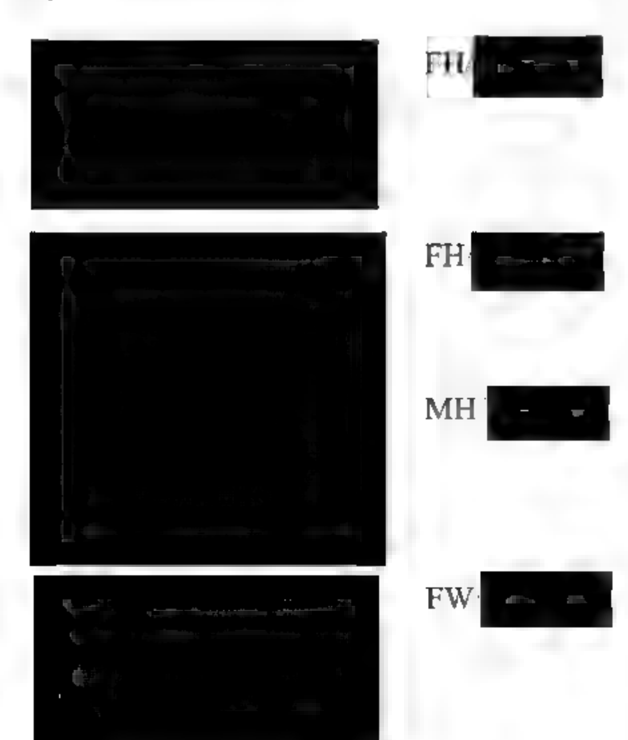


[redacted] Deputy #[redacted]

[redacted] Deputy #[redacted]

[redacted] Deputy #[redacted]

CIVILIANS

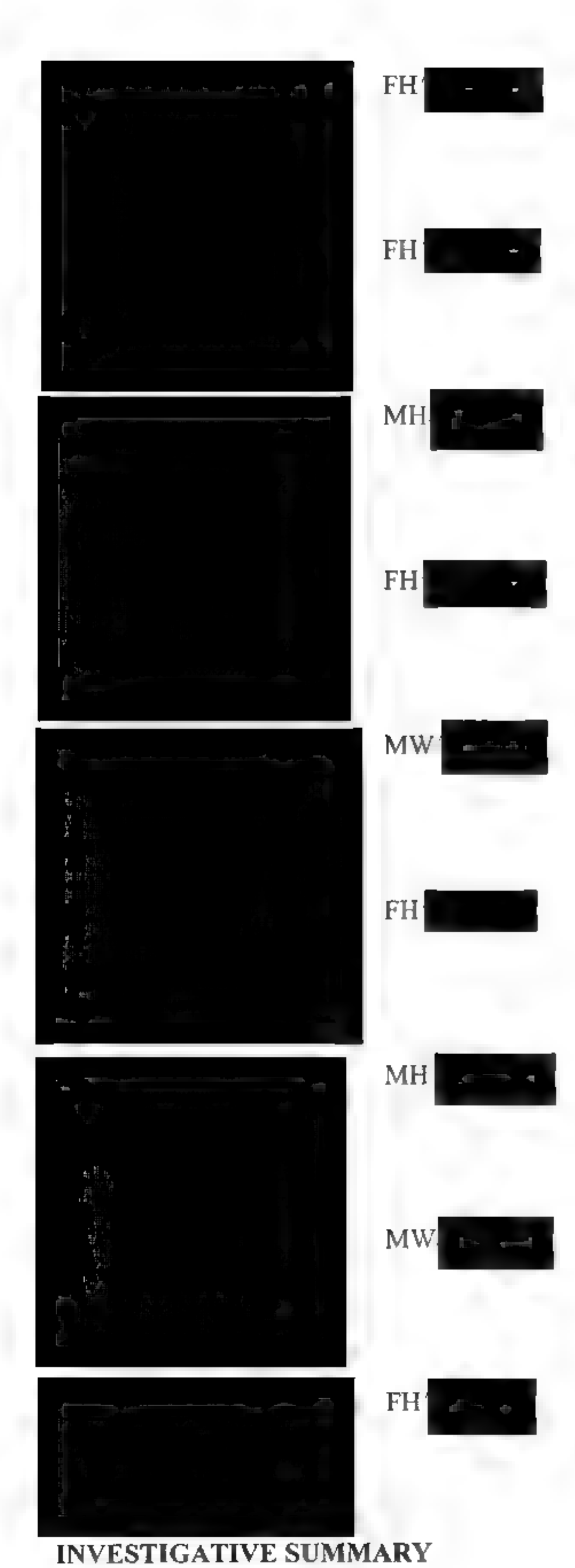


[redacted] FH [redacted]

[redacted] FH [redacted]

MH [redacted]

[redacted] FW [redacted]


FH [redacted]
FH [redacted]
MH [redacted]
FH [redacted]
MW [redacted]
FH [redacted]
MH [redacted]
MW [redacted]
FH [redacted]

INJURIES

Deputies: No deputies were injured during this incident

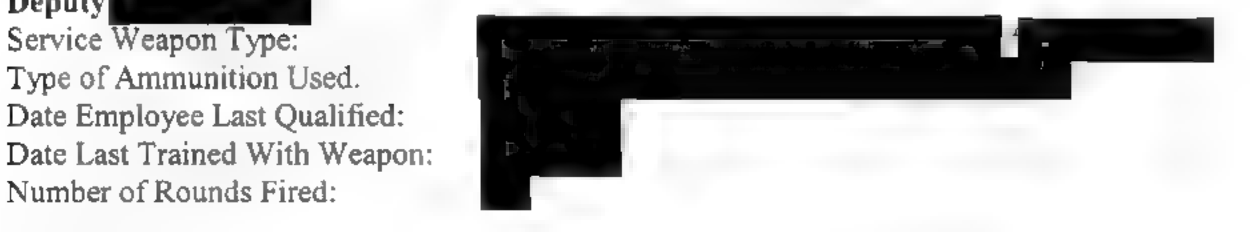
Suspect: The suspect sustained a fatal gunshot wound to his chest, the bullet entering the left side just below the nipple line, traversing front to back, left to right, and slightly downwards, striking a rib, the heart, liver, right lung and back. The bullet did not exit. The suspect suffered two additional gunshot wounds. In the first, the bullet entered the front of the right leg below the knee, traveling downward and exiting the back of the leg In the second, the bullet entered the inside of the left thigh, traveling downward and exiting the outside of the leg below the knee. The suspect also exhibited blunt force trauma injuries typically produced from ARWEN or Stunbag rounds. The locations of these injuries are the following: just below the left nipple, the inside of the right arm at the elbow, and the pubic region just below the belt line.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All physical evidence is listed in the Homicide Report

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

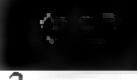
Deputy [redacted]



Service Weapon Type: [redacted]
Type of Ammunition Used.
Date Employee Last Qualified:
Date Last Trained With Weapon:
Number of Rounds Fired:

Deputy Steven Vranek

Service Weapon Type: Department issued Beretta 92FS, Serial #[redacted]
Type of Ammunition Used: Department issued Winchester 9mm Luger
Date Employee Last Qualified: [redacted]
Date Last Trained With Weapon:



Number of Rounds Fired: 2

Deputy Jason Diplock

Service Weapon Type: Department issued Beretta 92FS, Serial #[redacted]
Type of Ammunition Used: Department issued Winchester 9mm Luger
Date Employee Last Qualified: [redacted]
Date Last Trained With Weapon:



Number of Rounds Fired: 1

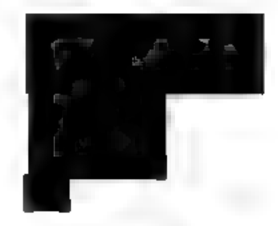
Deputy [redacted]

Service Weapon Type:
Type of Ammunition Used:
Date Employee Last Qualified:
Date Last Trained With Weapon:
Number of Rounds Fired:


[redacted]

Deputy [redacted]

Service Weapon Type:
Type of Ammunition Used:
Date Employee Last Qualified:
Date Last Trained With Weapon:
Number of Rounds Fired:


[redacted]

Deputy [redacted]

Service Weapon Type:
Type of Ammunition Used:
Date Employee Last Qualified:
Date Last Trained With Weapon:
Number of Rounds Fired:


[redacted]

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT

The suspect wielded a black plastic handled carving knife with an eight-inch blade. He also had in his possession a wooden handled steak knife with a five-inch blade. The large carving knife was recovered in the front livingroom, while the smaller steak knife was found on the suspect's body.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Property damage was limited to several bullet strikes in the interior walls of the apartment, along with a permanently disabled microwave oven.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED

No charges filed, suspect deceased.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Lighting was typical street and apartment complex incandescent lighting. The amount of light provided was adequate for the circumstances and does not appear to have been a major factor. The

weather was temperate and also not a factor.

EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

Deputy James Vranek was working EM Unit 132 with his [redacted] Deputy [redacted] They heard over the radio a call of a combative and insane person being assigned to a sergeant and two deputies. This was followed a short while later by the assigned sergeant (Sgt. Biddle) requesting assistance in the form of additional deputies and another field sergeant with an ARWEN. (Deputy Vranek later learned Sgt. Biddle's ARWEN was apparently malfunctioning). Deputy Vranek and Deputy [redacted] responded to the location in approximately three minutes. When they arrived, they saw a Hispanic female at the front of the apartment complex who was very upset. As they drove into the middle of the apartment complex, Deputy Vranek said they could see a male Hispanic (Suspect Esparza), standing in the open doorway of an apartment, holding a large butcher knife in his right hand and a 14" frying pan in his left hand. The suspect also appeared to Deputy Vranek to have a "duster's stare" (a gaze typical of someone under the influence of phencyclidine).

Deputy Vranek positioned himself on the left side of a minivan that was parked in front of the suspect's apartment at an angle. His partner, Deputy [redacted] was on the right side. The suspect looked agitated and continued to hold the knife by the blade as if he were going to throw it, making stabbing and throwing motions at the deputies as if to "taunt" them. Deputy Vranek drew down on the suspect with his Beretta handgun for his own safety. At the same time, he directed Deputy [redacted] to tell the suspect in Spanish to drop the knife. Because the suspect failed to respond, other deputies fired Stunbag rounds at the suspect. Deputy Vranek said he saw rounds strike the suspect in the right arm and chest. The rounds had no apparent effect on the suspect, other than to cause him to inspect himself where he had been hit. The suspect then stepped back into the apartment, partially closing the front door.

Not wanting to lose sight of the suspect and fearing he might arm himself with a firearm, Deputy Vranek told Deputy [redacted] standing on the right side of the door, to push the door open. When the door swung open, Deputy Vranek saw the suspect run into a rear bedroom, still holding the knife and frying pan. Deputy Vranek said he moved forward onto the threshold of the doorway, maintaining sight of the suspect. The suspect turned at the doorway and, from a boxer's stance, lunged at the deputies. He then turned and entered the bedroom At the same time, an additional Stunbag round was fired at the suspect, again having no apparent effect on him. Because he lost sight of the suspect, Deputy Vranek, followed by Deputies [redacted] and Diplock, moved into the livingroom where they could again locate him visually.

The suspect reappeared at the bedroom doorway, still holding the knife in his right hand by the blade However, this time the suspect drew his right arm back in a pitching motion, holding the knife high above his head, beginning a forward movement. Fearing for his safety and that of others, Deputy Vranek fired one round at the suspect. Deputy Vranek said other deputies fired simultaneously at the suspect, apparently reading the threat of a thrown knife in the same manner as he had. Deputy Vranek did not see where the knife landed. The suspect then began retreating into the back bedroom,

at the same time reaching into his right back pocket. Believing the suspect was reaching for an additional weapon, Deputy Vranek said he fired one more round at the suspect. The suspect fell back into the bedroom, landing on his back. Deputy Vranek said he and Deputy [redacted] approached the suspect and handcuffed him. Deputy Vranek said he then recovered an additional knife from the suspect's rear pants pocket.

Deputy Vranek said he ordered all deputies out of the apartment to maintain scene integrity. Paramedics, which someone else had requested earlier, arrived minutes later and tended to the suspect.

Deputy [redacted] was working PM Unit 136E with his [redacted] Deputy [redacted]. Deputy [redacted] said they were inside Lakewood Station [redacted] when they heard over the radio an assistance request from Sgt. Biddle, asking for a deputy to respond to his location with a Stunbag shotgun. When he learned from Deputy [redacted] that their radio car had a Stunbag shotgun, and knowing they were only 2-3 minutes away, Deputy [redacted] told SCC they would be responding Code 3. While en route, Deputy [redacted] heard additional requests for an ARWEN.

Arriving in minutes, Deputy [redacted] said he saw 4-5 radio cars parked in the apartment complex and outside along the street. He also saw several deputies gathered midway in the complex, their attention fixed on an apartment on the east side. Deputy [redacted] told Deputy [redacted] to grab the Stunbag shotgun and join the other deputies. As they got closer to the apartment, Deputy [redacted] saw the suspect standing on the porch holding a long knife in his right hand and a frying pan in his left. The suspect was holding the blade of the knife between his fingers, his right hand above his shoulder and his arm moving forward in a throwing motion. Deputy [redacted] said he and others yelled at the suspect to drop the knife. Deputy [redacted] said he also heard orders being given in Spanish.

Deputy [redacted] moved up to a position along the south side of a minivan parked in front of the apartment, his handgun trained on the suspect. His partner, Deputy [redacted], was also to the south of the minivan, his Stunbag shotgun aimed at the suspect. The suspect continued to stand 2-3 feet outside the apartment door, "taunting" deputies by motion forward as if he were going to throw the knife On the second or third forward motion, Deputy [redacted] fired the Stunbag shotgun at the suspect, apparently striking him in the left hand because the suspect seemed to look down at his hand. The suspect entered the apartment and closed the door, opening it seconds later The suspect made another forward motion with the knife and again Deputy [redacted] fired a Stunbag round at him. The suspect closed the door and reopened it seconds later, still holding the knife as before. More commands were yelled at the suspect to drop the knife. However, the suspect only closed the door again. Not knowing if anyone else was in the apartment or if the suspect had access to additional weapons, Deputy [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] moved up to the south (right) side of the closed door while Deputy Vranek held a position on the north side of the minivan which gave him a direct view into the apartment. Deputy [redacted] pushed the door open and saw the suspect moving toward a rear bedroom, still holding the knife above his shoulder. When he turned toward the deputies, Deputy [redacted] fired another Stunbag round at the suspect, then yelled he was out of Stunbag rounds.

Deputy [redacted] said the suspect was now approximately ten feet away from deputies. The suspect appeared to become more aggressive because he now cocked his arm way back in a manner different from earlier motions. Deputy [redacted] thought the knife was going to be thrown and had visions of the knife sticking in someone's forehead, killing someone. Deputy [redacted] said he fired four consecutive rounds at the suspect from his Beretta handgun. He heard others fire their weapons at the same time. The suspect continued with his throwing motion, releasing the knife. Deputy [redacted] does not know where the knife landed.

The suspect leaned into the bedroom and closed the door. Deputy [redacted] said he and Deputy Vranek opened the door and discovered the suspect on the floor on his back. They handcuffed the suspect and rolled him onto his left side. Deputy [redacted] recovered a steak knife from the right rear pocket of the suspect.

Deputy Jason Diplock was working EM Unit 133T1. Deputy Diplock heard the call over the radio and assigned himself as an assisting unit. He arrived approximately 1-1/2 minutes later. He contacted Deputies [redacted] Yelverton and [redacted] as well as Sgt. Biddle. They then tried to speak with the informant [redacted]. Because of a language barrier, they had trouble getting information from Ms. [redacted]. However they began to hear yelling in Spanish which drew their attention to Apartment [redacted] which was now being pointed at by Ms. [redacted]. The apartment had a heavy metal screen door which was closed. The screen door also had clear plastic covering on the inside, making it difficult to see through the screen door. Sgt. Biddle opened the screen door and saw Suspect Esparza standing in the livingroom, holding a large butcher knife by the handle in his right hand. Sgt. Biddle immediately retreated from the apartment and sought cover behind a minivan parked directly outside the suspect's apartment

Deputy Diplock said he ordered the suspect to drop the knife, but the suspect yelled something in Spanish while holding the knife at his side, then shut the wooden front door. A few seconds later the suspect opened the door, now holding the knife by the blade and above his shoulder, making throwing motions toward the deputies. He was also holding a frying pan in his left hand. With the suspect failing to drop the knife after numerous commands, Sgt. Biddle ordered the Stunbag be fired at the suspect. Two rounds were fired at the suspect (Deputy Diplock does not know who fired) while he stood at the threshold. The suspect used the frying pan as a shield, retreating into the apartment and closing the door. A few seconds passed when the suspect opened the door and walked out onto the sidewalk. He continued to hold the knife by the blade above his shoulders in a threatening manner, motioning several times as if he were going to throw the knife.

Deputy Diplock said Sgt. Biddle requested assistance, asking for the ARWEN carried by the second field sergeant (Sgt Steven Gonzalez, EM Unit 131S). Three Stunbag shotguns and an ARWEN were now aimed at the suspect. Several times Deputy Diplock heard Deputy [redacted] yell in Spanish for the suspect to drop the knife. The suspect reentered the apartment, closing the wooden door. Deputy [redacted] pushed the wooden front door open, possibly to maintain sight of the suspect. Again Deputy [redacted] ordered the suspect in Spanish to drop the knife. Stunbags and ARWEN rounds were then fired at the suspect. Deputy Diplock said the Stunbag and ARWEN rounds only caused the suspect to glance down at areas where he had apparently been struck. Deputies [redacted] Diplock

and Vranek then moved to the threshold of the apartment. Seconds later the suspect raised the knife above his head in a very deliberate throwing motion, but different from what he had done just moments earlier. Deputy Diplock said he was in fear of his life and that of fellow officers, and fired one round from his Beretta handgun at the suspect who was now 10 12 feet away. At the same time, Deputy Diplock moved to the side to avoid being struck by the knife He does not know what the knife struck or where it landed. Deputy Diplock recalls seeing the bedroom door closing when he looked back up, the suspect apparently having retreated behind the door Deputies Vranek, [redacted] and Diplock carefully approached and opened the door, finding the suspect lying on his back next to a bed. They quickly handcuffed the suspect, after which someone (possibly Deputy Vranek) recovered a second smaller knife from the back pocket of the suspect. Paramedics then arrived and began working on the suspect.

EMPLOYEE WITNESS STATEMENTS

Sergeant Richard Biddle was working EM Unit 130S, one of two field sergeants on the shift. Sergeant Steven Gonzalez was the second field sergeant (131S). Sgt. Biddle was assigned to the mentally insane person call along with other units. Upon arrival, he and assisting deputies contacted the informant, Ms. [redacted] in front of Apartment [redacted] He asked her in broken Spanish where her "[redacted]" was. She pointed to Apartment [redacted] While communicating with Ms. [redacted] they heard yelling in Spanish coming from Apartment [redacted] immediately north of Apartment [redacted] Sgt. Biddle said there was an unlatched black metal screen door to the apartment which he opened 1/4 of the way, allowing him to look into the apartment, the wooden front door already being wide open. Sgt. Biddle saw the suspect standing in the livingroom holding a large butcher knife by the blade Sgt Biddle immediately closed the screen door and sought cover behind a nearby van, advising deputies of what he had observed. The suspect stepped outside the apartment, motioning the knife in a stabbing manner toward the deputies, yelling, "Get out of here!" The suspect entered and exited the apartment several times, each time the deputies yelling for him to drop the knife. Sgt. Biddle said O.C. Spray was not used because the distance between he and the suspect was too great

Sgt. Biddle said he went to his vehicle and retrieved his ARWEN Sgt Biddle was unable to load the ARWEN so he gave it to Deputy [redacted] to load. Deputy [redacted] was also unable to load the weapon. He requested the other field sergeant (Sgt. Gonzalez, Unit131S) to respond Code-3 with a second ARWEN as well as deputies with Stunbag shotguns. (None of the patrol cars at the scene were equipped with Stunbag shotguns)

> **IAB Note:** The version of ARWEN that Sgt. Biddle was using has a rotary magazine that winds a spring as each round is loaded. This spring tension is what feeds in a new round as the previous round is fired. Apparently the magazine had been wound without any rounds being inserted. The only way for anyone to load rounds in the weapon would be to unwind the magazine and start over, a problem and procedure neither Deputy [redacted] nor Sgt Biddle had encountered. Sgt. Biddle stated in a follow-up conversation that normally the ARWENS are checked, reloaded and are ready to go at the beginning of each shift. Sgt. Biddle said he recalls some sort of activity prior to the incident that precluded him from

checking the ARWEN.

Approximately two minutes later, Sgt. Gonzalez and Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] responded with an ARWEN and Stunbag shotgun. Sgt. Biddle gave the ARWEN to Deputy [redacted] and directed him to fire at the suspect when the opportunity arose. When the suspect again stepped outside the apartment still holding a knife, as well as a metal pot he was using as a shield, Deputy [redacted] fired two rounds at the suspect which had no apparent effect on the suspect. Sgt. Biddle loaded the ARWEN with two more rounds and gave it back to Deputy [redacted] who fired one or two additional rounds at the suspect, again not appearing to affect the suspect. Sgt. Biddle then directed deputies armed with Stunbag shotguns to fire at the suspect and directed Deputy Brennan to accompany him to his vehicle to retrieve a shield, while he obtained additional ARWEN rounds. This was done while Sgt. Gonzalez remained at the scene. While returning from his vehicle he heard numerous commands to drop the knife, followed by several Stunbag rounds being fired with approximately four 9mm rounds being fired last. Back at the apartment, Sgt. Biddle said he was about the sixth person to enter the apartment where they found the suspect lying on the floor of the bedroom. Sgt. Biddle said he directed Deputy Vranek to handcuff the suspect. He then ensured that paramedics were responding.

Deputy [redacted] was working Unit [redacted], a one-man overlap car. He was the handling unit on the call which originated as "mentally ill person, contact the informant at the adjoining apartment." He had assisting units meet at Bellflower Blvd. and Walnut Street. Deputy [redacted] recalls four patrol cars and the field sergeant responding. They parked on Walnut Street and approached the location on foot. As they attempted to converse with the informant ([redacted] of the suspect) who only spoke Spanish, they heard yelling in Spanish coming from Apartment [redacted]. Other deputies had "fanned" out around the outside of the apartment when someone yelled, "Watch out! He's got a knife!" The security door of the apartment was open and the suspect stood on the threshold. Deputy [redacted] said he was now able to see that the suspect was holding a knife with a 6-8 inch blade, the knife pointed up.

The suspect yelled at the deputies in broken English to leave, at the same time making a "tomahawk" motion with the knife and stepping forward. Everyone sought cover behind nearby vehicles while also yelling for the suspect to drop the knife. Deputy [redacted] said Sgt. Biddle asked if anyone had a Stunbag shotgun. As Sgt. Biddle went to his car to retrieve his ARWEN, the suspect stepped further outside his apartment. His throwing motions with the knife becoming increasingly more pronounced and aggressive, causing Deputy [redacted] to duck.

Sgt. Biddle returned with the ARWEN, but told Deputy [redacted] he had trouble loading the weapon. He asked Deputy [redacted] if he knew how to operate the weapon. Deputy [redacted] said he did, but he too had trouble loading the weapon.

Sgt. Biddle had obtained a different type of ARWEN (SL6) and handed it to Deputy [redacted], instructing him to fire it at the suspect. This ARWEN was already loaded. Deputy [redacted] said he fired one round at the suspect from 15-20 feet, but he does not know if the suspect was struck. The suspect entered his apartment but reemerged, still holding the knife. As the suspect yelled for

the deputies to "get out of here," Deputy [redacted] said he fired a second ARWEN round at the suspect Deputy [redacted] believes that round ricocheted off the door jam. As other deputies yelled for the suspect to drop the knife, Deputy [redacted] attempted to fire a third round but the weapon seemed to malfunction. Deputy [redacted] said he stepped away and checked the weapon, realizing the magazine on this version of ARWEN had not been fully wound. Deputy [redacted] said he corrected the problem and when he had the opportunity, fired one or two additional rounds at the suspect. The suspect went inside his apartment. As he did, Deputy [redacted] said he could see a hole in the wall near where the suspect had been standing. Deputy [redacted] believes the hole was caused by an ARWEN round. Deputy [redacted] stepped aside a second time because he believed the SL6 was malfunctioning again. While checking the weapon, he heard other deputies requesting a Stunbag shotgun. Moments later he heard 3-4 Stunbag rounds fired, followed approximately twenty seconds later by 3-4 9mm rounds being fired. Deputy [redacted] did not see what deputies fired their handguns.

Deputy [redacted] was working PM Unit 136E with his [redacted] Deputy [redacted] They were at Lakewood Station [redacted] when they heard the request for a Stunbag shotgun. Deputy [redacted] does not remember the initial call being dispatched. When they arrived at the location, Deputy [redacted] retrieved the Stunbag shotgun from the trunk and walked toward the apartment in question. He heard deputies yelling for the suspect to drop the knife, and as he got closer, he could hear the suspect yelling back unintelligibly. Deputy [redacted] said he took a position behind a van parked in front of the apartment He could see that the suspect was holding a knife in his right hand by the handle and a metal shield in his left hand approximately ten inches in diameter. The suspect was very angry and agitated. The suspect looked in the direction of Deputy [redacted] Deputy [redacted] said he felt the suspect was going to throw the knife, based on the suspect advancing in his direction. In addition, there was another deputy on the other side of the van that was even closer to the suspect than he (Deputy [redacted]) was. Deputy [redacted] said he decided to fire a Stunbag round at the suspect based on the threat presented by the suspect. Deputy [redacted] said he does not know if the round struck the suspect but it did seem to cause him to at least back away, into the apartment.

The suspect took cover behind the open wooden front door. Deputy [redacted] said he could still see the knife being held in the suspect's hand. When the suspect stepped out from behind the door, Deputy [redacted] fired a second round. The suspect again stepped behind the front door, reappearing moments later, now holding the knife by the blade. Deputy [redacted] said he became scared because it now looked as though the suspect was going to throw the knife Deputy [redacted] fired a third round at the suspect, who once again stepped behind the door. Deputy [redacted] now moved up beside the front door and pushed it open. Deputy [redacted] said he moved up closer to the front door so that he could see inside the apartment. He saw the suspect at the rear of the livingroom, in front of another doorway, still holding the knife and appearing as if he were about to throw it. Deputy [redacted] said he fired his fourth and final Stunbag round at the suspect from the threshold of the front door. He then yelled he was out (of Stunbag rounds), and someone pulled him away from the front door area. Other deputies filed in behind Deputy [redacted] as he walked to the rear of the van and placed the empty Stunbag shotgun on the ground. As he began to walk toward the apartment, he heard someone yell the suspect was going to throw the knife. This was followed by several gunshots. Deputy

[redacted] did not see who actually fired their weapons. Someone then requested an ARWEN and paramedics were requested.

Deputy [redacted] was working EM Unit 133D with his [redacted] Deputy Gary Harman. They were attending briefing when they heard the request from Sgt. Biddle for an ARWEN or Stunbag shotgun After arriving, Deputy [redacted] grabbed the Stunbag shotgun and advanced up to the suspect's apartment. While en route he heard the firing of some type of round but he does not know who fired When he arrived, he positioned himself 20-30 feet from northwest of the front door. Deputy [redacted] said he approached the front door when he heard someone yell they were out (of ARWEN or Stunbag rounds). Standing in front of the door between Deputies Vranek and [redacted] Deputy [redacted] could see the suspect holding in his left hand a disk of some sort along with a knife with a five-inch blade. The right side of the suspect's body was not visible to Deputy [redacted] because it was blocked by an interior door Deputy [redacted] said Deputy Vranek ordered the suspect to drop the knife. The suspect failed to comply, while at the same time dropping the disc he appeared to be holding as a shield. Deputy [redacted] said he took this opportunity to fire one round from his Stunbag shotgun. The suspect fell toward the left, concealed by the apartment door. Moments later the suspect reappeared, his right arm raised up and back as if he were going to throw something. Deputy [redacted] said he was suddenly pulled back (or possibly he jumped) at the same time that he heard 3-4 gunshots. He does not know who fired their weapons. He also recalls something coming toward him from the suspect. Other deputies then approached the suspect who was later treated by paramedics.

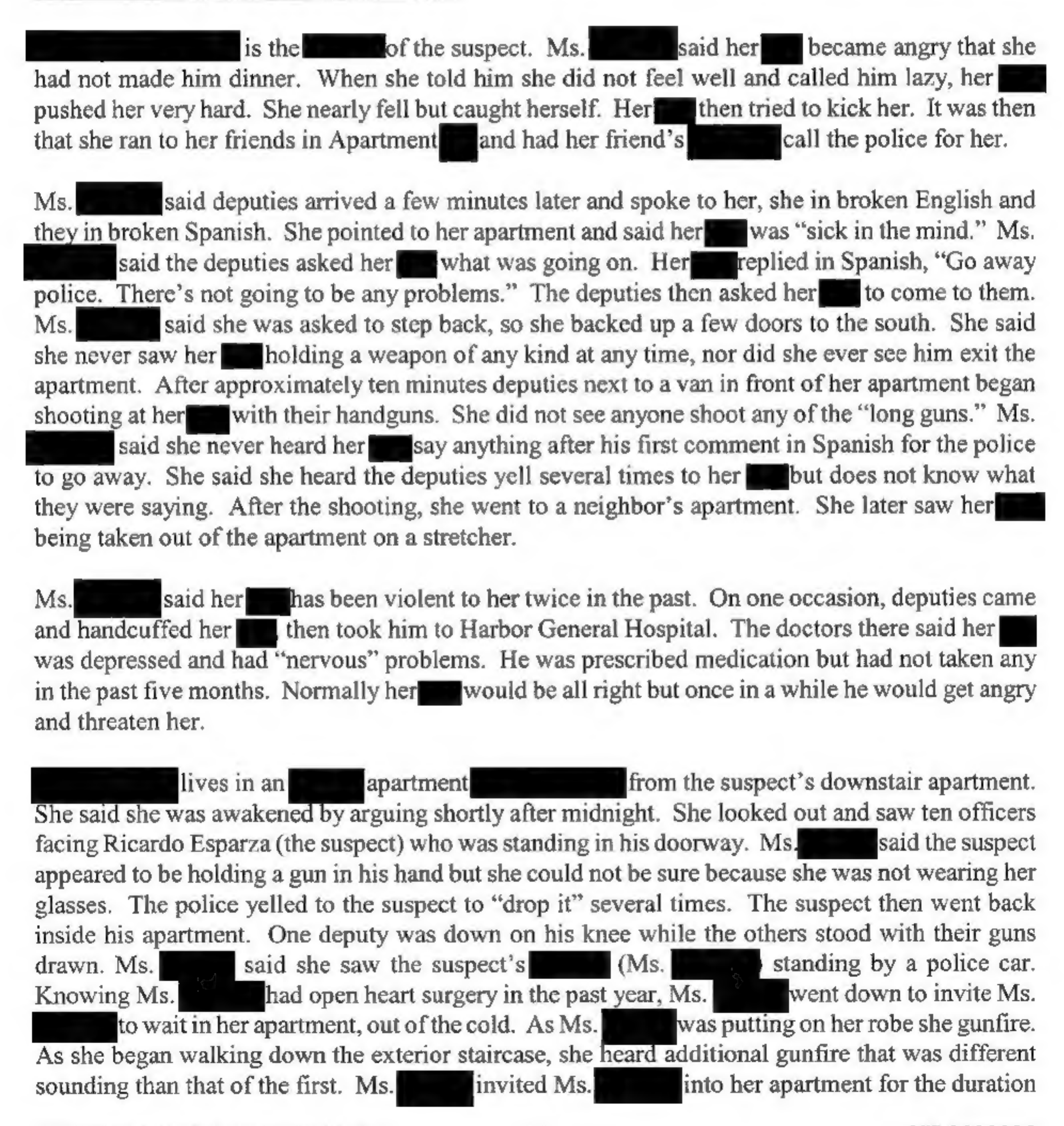
Sergeant Steven Gonzalez was working EM Unit 131S when he heard Sgt. Biddle request he respond Code-3 with an ARWEN to his violently insane person call. Sgt. Gonzalez said he arrived at the location and was retrieving the ARWEN from his trunk when he heard a round go off which to him sounded like a Stunbag round. Sgt. Biddle ran up and grabbed the ARWEN and ran back to where the incident was unfolding. Sgt. Gonzalez said he followed Sgt. Biddle to the apartment where he saw 6-7 deputies fanned out in a U-shaped pattern. All the deputies had their guns drawn. In addition, there were two deputies with Stunbag shotguns. Sgt. Gonzalez said he saw the suspect standing in the doorway of an apartment holding a knife in each hand. Deputies yelled several times for the suspect to drop his knives. He then heard two Stunbag rounds fired by someone, followed by Deputy [redacted] firing 2-3 ARWEN rounds. The suspect retreated somewhat into his apartment, taunting the deputies by motioning the knife in their direction.

Sgt. Gonzalez said Sgt. Biddle was doing a good job of containing the situation. After Deputy [redacted] fired his ARWEN rounds, Sgt. Biddle went to his vehicle to obtain more rounds. Sgt. Gonzalez noticed additional deputies arriving, estimating there were now 13-14 deputies, many of whom had their guns drawn. Sgt. Gonzalez said he pulled back some of the deputies. After doing so, Sgt. Gonzalez said he heard a deputy fire a Stunbag shotgun and then exclaim, "I'm out!" Sgt Gonzalez said he pulled that deputy away from the doorway and was about to replace him with another deputy when the suspect raised the knife over his head and placed his arm in a throwing motion. Sgt. Gonzalez said the suspect began to throw the knife at what Sgt. Gonzalez felt was directly at him. Sgt. Gonzalez said he ducked down behind a van for 3-4 seconds, turning his back on the suspect He said he felt it was better to take a knife in the back than in the face. During this time he heard three to four 9mm rounds fired. He looked up to see Deputies Vranek, [redacted] and

Harman entering the rear bedroom of the apartment. After determining the suspect was down, Sgt. Gonzalez restricted access to the apartment and insured paramedics were responding.

> **IAB Note:** The remaining employee witnesses saw or heard parts of the above but had no additional substantive observations to offer.

CIVILIAN WITNESS STATEMENTS



[redacted] is the [redacted] of the suspect. Ms. [redacted] said her [redacted] became angry that she had not made him dinner. When she told him she did not feel well and called him lazy, her [redacted] pushed her very hard. She nearly fell but caught herself. Her [redacted] then tried to kick her. It was then that she ran to her friends in Apartment [redacted] and had her friend's [redacted] call the police for her.

Ms. [redacted] said deputies arrived a few minutes later and spoke to her, she in broken English and they in broken Spanish. She pointed to her apartment and said her [redacted] was "sick in the mind." Ms. [redacted] said the deputies asked her [redacted] what was going on. Her [redacted] replied in Spanish, "Go away police. There's not going to be any problems." The deputies then asked her [redacted] to come to them. Ms. [redacted] said she was asked to step back, so she backed up a few doors to the south. She said she never saw her [redacted] holding a weapon of any kind at any time, nor did she ever see him exit the apartment. After approximately ten minutes deputies next to a van in front of her apartment began shooting at her [redacted] with their handguns. She did not see anyone shoot any of the "long guns." Ms. [redacted] said she never heard her [redacted] say anything after his first comment in Spanish for the police to go away. She said she heard the deputies yell several times to her [redacted] but does not know what they were saying. After the shooting, she went to a neighbor's apartment. She later saw her [redacted] being taken out of the apartment on a stretcher.

Ms. [redacted] said her [redacted] has been violent to her twice in the past. On one occasion, deputies came and handcuffed her [redacted] then took him to Harbor General Hospital. The doctors there said her [redacted] was depressed and had "nervous" problems. He was prescribed medication but had not taken any in the past five months. Normally her [redacted] would be all right but once in a while he would get angry and threaten her.

[redacted] lives in an [redacted] apartment [redacted] from the suspect's downstair apartment. She said she was awakened by arguing shortly after midnight. She looked out and saw ten officers facing Ricardo Esparza (the suspect) who was standing in his doorway. Ms. [redacted] said the suspect appeared to be holding a gun in his hand but she could not be sure because she was not wearing her glasses. The police yelled to the suspect to "drop it" several times. The suspect then went back inside his apartment. One deputy was down on his knee while the others stood with their guns drawn. Ms. [redacted] said she saw the suspect's [redacted] (Ms. [redacted] standing by a police car. Knowing Ms. [redacted] had open heart surgery in the past year, Ms. [redacted] went down to invite Ms. [redacted] to wait in her apartment, out of the cold. As Ms. [redacted] was putting on her robe she gunfire. As she began walking down the exterior staircase, she heard additional gunfire that was different sounding than that of the first. Ms. [redacted] invited Ms. [redacted] into her apartment for the duration

of the incident.

Ms. [redacted] recalls at least three occasions where the suspect has been taken away by mental health workers, once by restraining his hands and feet. She stated the suspect sometimes goes off on "tangents" and his [redacted], [redacted], told her he (the suspect) was mentally unstable and was on medication, but that he does not take it regularly. Ms. [redacted] described the suspect as "not being all there." She does not know what is wrong with him. In the week prior to this incident, Ms. [redacted] stated the suspect was acting very weird and peculiar, placing plastic on the inside of his screen door and kicking carpet around the parking lot. Because of the suspect's odd behavior, Ms. [redacted] would sit outside and keep an eye on the children playing in the yard whenever the suspect was also outside.

[redacted] **and** [redacted] were sitting at their diningroom table in their apartment which is [redacted] from the suspect's apartment. Hearing a commotion outside, they looked out their window and saw several officers standing in front of the suspect's apartment with their guns drawn. They were talking to the suspect who was standing in his doorway, holding a knife by the blade in his right hand at shoulder height. The officers told him repeatedly in English and in Spanish to drop his knife. Several times, the suspect walked out of his apartment, each time going toward a different officer, challenging him. The suspect looked as though he were going to throw the knife by the manner in which he held it. The suspect entered his apartment and returned with a frying pan which he now used as a shield. The suspect yelled at the officers to "get out of here!" The suspect's mother told him to calm down, then told officers to "just forget it," to just leave and she would try to talk to him and calm him down. The officers replied they could not do that. They told her they had to handle the situation.

The [redacted] saw deputies with handguns, shotguns and a gun that Mr. [redacted] believed fired rubber bullets. When the suspect returned to the doorway, the [redacted] heard a group of gunshots, followed by a second group of gunshot. The [redacted] thought a total of six rounds had been fired. When they looked out the window again, they saw officers entering the apartment.

The [redacted] said residents of the apartment complex were afraid of the suspect because of his bad temper and aggressive behavior toward children as well as adults.

[redacted] said he was inside his second floor apartment ([redacted] from the suspect) attaching wires to his stereo. He looked out the window and saw police officers pointing their guns at the suspect who was standing in the doorway to his apartment. The suspect had a lid in one hand and an object such as a knife or stick in the other hand, and telling the officers to leave. The suspect entered and exited the apartment several times. Officers repeatedly told the suspect to drop his knife, doing so in English and in Spanish. The suspect became agitated and seemed to be trying to intimidate the officers by banging the objects he held in his hands against the screen door. Someone fired a beanbag shotgun twice at the suspect, then the officers advanced toward the door. The suspect either fell or stepped back into his apartment and more words were exchanged between he and the officers. Moments later Mr. [redacted] heard additional gunfire.

Mr. [redacted] has lived at the apartment complex for two weeks. During that time he has

encountered the suspect on several occasions. He described the suspect as mentally ill, based on his staring off into space.

[redacted] was awakened by her [redacted]. She looked out their livingroom window and saw deputies outside with their guns drawn, aiming at the suspect who was standing in the doorway of Apartment [redacted], holding a pan in his hand. The suspect was going in and out of his apartment, telling deputies to leave. She did not hear what the deputies were saying. Several deputies were holding long guns (apparently an ARWEN or Stunbag shotguns). Because the lighting was poor, she could not see what else the suspect was holding, though her husband told her it was a knife. The suspect stepped inside the apartment and she heard a deputy say in Spanish, "Put it down! Put it down!" This was followed by several gunshots. Additional deputies moved up to the front door of the apartment, and again she heard a deputy tell the suspect in Spanish to "put it down." Ms. [redacted] said this was followed by 4-5 gunshots that were louder than the earlier gunshots.

Ms. [redacted] said she has seen the suspect in the apartment complex but does not know him.

> **IAB Note:** The remaining civilian witnesses saw or heard parts of the above but had no additional substantive observations to offer.

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

The following is a time line of this incident:

- 00:00 Call is dispatched
- 03:18 The first three units along with Sgt. Biddle arrives
- 07:04 Sgt. Biddle requests Sgt. Gonzalez respond Code-3 with an ARWEN, stating his ARWEN is not working. He also requests two deputies with Stunbag shotguns also respond. (None of the initial cars on scene were equipped with Stunbag shotguns.)
- 09:45 Sgt. Gonzalez arrives with his ARWEN
- 10:28 Deputies with Stunbag shotguns arrive
- 10:35 Mental Evaluation Team Unit E918B, monitoring the frequency, states she is just arriving at Harbor General Hospital and will respond as soon as possible.
- 11:04 Sgt. Biddle requests 902R as a precaution
- 12:39 Someone broadcasts a 998 has just occurred
- 13:00 Code-4 is issued

While difficulties were encountered in the operation of the two types of ARWENs available to the deputies, ARWEN rounds were eventually fired at the suspect but appeared to have had no effect in altering his behavior. Stunbag rounds were also fired at the suspect with a similar lack of effect. As noted by Sgt. Biddle, O.C. spray was not used due to the distance the spray would have to be deployed while keeping personnel at a safe distance from the knife. Two other less-lethal options not utilized on the suspect (and not available to the deputies at the time) are the Pepperball launcher and the M-26 Taser. (The earlier version Taser was not available).

Deputy Mike Thomas of Field Operations Support Services stated the Pepperball Launcher has undergone trial testing at Lennox Station and is expected to be purchased and disbursed throughout patrol in the future. It is currently used in custody and has proven to be very effective. It has the capability of delivering O.C. powder from a distance while allowing deputies to make use of appropriate cover.

Deputy Mike Harding of the Field Operations Training Unit stated the M26 Taser is being issued to all stations. [redacted] Unfortunately, it has an [redacted] requiring personnel to put themselves well inside the danger zone of a knife wielding suspect. This threat can be minimized by utilizing the ballistic shield and appropriate cover fire. According to Deputy Harding, how to deal with violently insane individuals, including those armed with knives, has only recently been taught, being incorporated into the CPT program as of November 2001 as a result of this incident.

O.C. spray or powder often times has no apparent effect on individuals that are mentally unstable or under the influence of narcotics, and a Taser is sometimes difficult to deploy depending on the circumstances. However, future incidents of a similar nature would be situations ideal for the deployment of the Pepperball Launcher as well as the M-26 Taser, and at the very least it would show department personnel made every attempt to address a mentally unstable individual with all forms of less-lethal force.

MISCELLANEOUS

None